

Rocks, Relics and Rumbles

Knowledge

Types of rocks

There are three main types of rock in the Earth's crust. These are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.

Sedimentary rocks are made from layers of mud and sand, called sediment, that have settled in water and have been squashed over a long time to form rock.

Igneous rocks are made from cooled magma or lava.

Metamorphic rocks are formed when existing rocks are changed by heat and pressure.

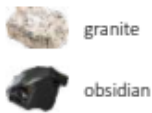
Sedimentary rocks



sandstone

limestone

Igneous rocks



granite

obsidian

Metamorphic rocks



marble

slate

What are rocks used for?

The appearance and properties of rocks affect how they are used.

Chalk, a sedimentary rock, is soft and can be easily eroded. This makes chalk suitable for writing and drawing on blackboards.



Granite, an igneous rock, is very hard and impermeable. Granite is used for making kitchen work surfaces.



Marble is a metamorphic rock. It is easy to carve and is not easily eroded, making it suitable for sculptures.



Fossils

Fossils are the remains, or traces, of once-living things preserved as rock. Fossils are only found in sedimentary rock and the conditions must be just right for them to develop.



[We will research into the life of Mary Anning!](#)

Other things we will cover in this topic:

- Plate tectonics and the Ring of Fire
- Volcanoes—how they are formed and the different types
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis

Vocabulary

erode	Be gradually worn away.
impermeable	Not allowing water to pass through. Also described as waterproof.
lava	Hot, molten rock that comes out of a volcano.
liquid	A material that is runny, can be poured easily and takes the shape of its container.
magma	Hot molten rock found in the Earth's mantle.
molten	Metal or rock that is in a liquid state because of great heat.
organic matter	Dead and decaying plants and animals.
Ring of Fire	Area around the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.
solid	A material that doesn't flow and can be held.
tectonic plate	A large, slow-moving piece of rock that makes up the Earth's crust.
vent	An opening in the Earth's crust through which lava escapes.
volcanic eruption	The sudden and violent explosion of lava, gas, ash and rock out of a volcano.